

**R E M A R K S**

By the above-identified office action, the Claims 3, 8, 12 and 13 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to contain the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 4 have been amended, Claim 18 has been added, and Claims 2, 3 and 7-17 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The independent Claim 1 as now amended includes the limitations of allowable Claim 3 and Claim 2 in independent form, so that Claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

The independent Claim 4 as now amended includes the limitations of allowable Claim 8 and intervening Claim 7 in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 4 is believed to be in readily allowable condition.

New independent Claim 18 includes the limitations of allowable Claim 12, intervening Claim 11 and base Claim 4 in independent form. Claim 18 is thus also believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 4, 5-6, and 18 remaining in the case are in allowable condition rendering moot further discussion of the above-identified office action. The early allowance of the Claims 1, 4, 5-6, and 18 accordingly is hereby respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/707,670  
Amendment dated August 22, 2006  
Reply to office action of 03-23-06

Respectfully submitted,

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